



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

Norman H. Bangerter
Governor

Dee C. Hansen

Executive Director

Robert L. Morgan

State Engineer

1636 West North Temple, Suite 220

Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-3156

801-538-7240

April 21, 1989

Mr. Jeris Danielson, State Engineer
Office of the State Engineer
1313 Sherman Street - Room 818
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Pot Creek Administration

Dear Jeris:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the minutes of the Annual Meeting held with the Pot Creek water users and a copy of the instructions given to the River Commissioner concerning administration of the Pot Creek River System. We hope the discussion at the annual meeting and the instructions to the River Commissioner will resolve the water distribution problems which have occurred in the past.

The cost of administering the Pot Creek Distribution System has been the lowest of any of the water distribution systems in the State of Utah. The cost has been so low because the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has allowed Chad Crosby to perform most of his commissioner duties in conjunction with his work for the division. This will no longer be possible because of changes in the division's policy. The water users voted to recommend Mr. Crosby as the commissioner for the coming year. A motion also was approved to increase the commissioner's salary and provide travel expenses since the job will now require more of his own time and the use of his personal vehicle. As indicated in the meeting minutes, a committee was also organized to study several issues related to the commissioner's position. Based upon the committee's recommendations, the water users may decide to increase the administrative costs on the system again at the next annual meeting.

I would be glad to meet with you to discuss any of the issues related to Pot Creek and to develop a memorandum of understanding. Please let me know when you would like to meet.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Morgan, P. E.
State Engineer

cc: Bob Leake, P. E., Area Engineer
Lee Sim, P. E., Directing Engineer
Distribution/Adjudication

Distribution of water between Utah and Colorado users according to existing water rights:

During the period of October 31 through May 1, the reservoirs fill in the following order according to established priority dates: Crouse Reservoir, Offield Reservoir, Matt Warner Reservoir and Calder Reservoir.

The 1963 decree by Judge A. H. Ellett on the Green River and Pot Creek in Utah provides that during the period of October 31 to May 1 the first 5 cfs. of the flow of Pot Creek (measured at Matt Warner Dam) is to be stored in Crouse Reservoir. The decree further states that in the distribution of the water the State Engineer may retain the 5.0 cfs. in Matt Warner during any part of the period from October 1 to May 1 and may release the same as soon as possible and convenient. Therefore, the order of filling Crouse and Matt Warner Reservoirs will not be restricted as long as any flow exceeding 5.0 cfs (measured at Matt Warner) is released to Offield Reservoir and the amount retained in Matt Warner (before filling Offield) does not exceed the amount which could have been stored in Crouse Reservoir during the period in question.

During the irrigation period of May 1 through October 31 the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is entitled to the first 5.00 cfs of flow as measured above Matt Warner Dam. This flow may be stored or diverted at the Division's discretion. The next 6.50 cfs must be released to the Colorado users and is measured at the state line.

Measurement is needed at 4 points on the system:

- a) At the existing USGS gage above Matt Warner Dam
- b) At the existing flume and gage below Crouse Reservoir
- c) At the existing weir on Wildlife Resources diversion to Brown's Park below the splitter
- d) At the existing measuring device at the Utah/Colorado state line

Bob Leake, Vernal Area Engineer and the River Commissioner will make streamflow measurements this spring and early summer to estimate the water losses between the splitter at the diversion to Brown's Park and the state line. These measurements will help to estimate how much water has to be released at Crouse Reservoir before 6.50 cfs is available at the state line.

ROY ROMER
Governor



JERIS A. DANIELSON
State Engineer

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March 13, 1989

WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

Mr. Robert L. Morgan, State Engineer
Utah Division of Water Rights
1636 West North Temple, Suite 220
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-3156

Re: Pot Creek Administration

Dear Bob,

Based upon a report to me by my Division Engineer for Water Division VI, Ed Blank, concerning the Pot Creek Distribution meeting held on February 15, 1989, I felt I ought to express my concerns with respect to several issues.

First, I am concerned with the apparent failure to deliver water, this past year, to Colorado users. My understanding is that several of the Colorado water rights are quite senior, and that absent some agreement by the owners, water should have been delivered to them. I am also concerned with the release of water from Crouse Creek rather than Pot Creek.

Secondly, I am concerned with the proposed increase in administrative costs.

I certainly don't want to create problems that aren't there in this matter, but I wonder if, perhaps, you and I need to sit down and discuss the situation and also to develop a memorandum of understanding.

Please give me your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Jeris A. Danielson
State Engineer

JAD/pjl

cc: Edward W. Blank, Div. Engr.
Gary Sutton
Dave Karren
Bill Martin

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